

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01923 310858Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3324  
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S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1923

EXDIS

ASMARA FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER ONLY -- TREAT AS STADIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, ET, US  
SUBJ: INFORMING THE EPMG OF THE FUTURE OF KAGNEW AND THE MAAG

REF: STATE 68802

1. TO TRY AND AVOID CREATING IMPRESSION THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF REDUCTION IN MAAG TO EPMG IS SOMEHOW RELATED TO PRESENT SECURITY SITUATION, I WOULD LIKE TO HOLD OFF NOTIFYING EPMG FOR A FEW DAYS ASSUMING LOCAL SITUATION WHICH HAS IMPROVED OVER PAST FOUR DAYS DOES NOT AGAIN DETERIORATE.

2. IN INTERIM, I WOULD LIKE TO ARRIVE AT AN AGREED-UPON FORMULA AS TO WHAT WE SAY TO ETHIOPIANS, SUCH FORULA (WITH APPROPRIATE MODIFICATIONS) TO BE USED IF NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION AS WELL. TO THIS END I AM SENDING A PROPOSED LETTER TO MOND AYALEW DRAFTED BY GEN. FYE BY SEPTTEL FOR DEPT'S CONSIDERATION.

3. IF CAREFULLY WORDED, THERE IS CHANCE THAT EPMG (OR AT LEAST MAJORITY) WILL ACCEPT REDUCTION AT FACE VALUE WITHOUT SEEING DEEPER IMPLICATIONS INVOLVING OVERALL

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USG INTENTIONS TOWARD ETHIOPIA. THERE WILL BE SOME DIRG MEMBERS WHO WILL WELCOME MOVE INCLUDING A GROUP WHO WE HEAR WOULD LIKE TO SEE US GO WHOLE WAY AND PULL MAAG OUT ENTIRELY. SAME REACTION MAY NOT, HOWEVER, BE AS TRUE FOR KAGNEW. AS DEPT KNOWS, THERE HAS LONG BEEN CONCEPTION THAT KAGNEW HAS BEEN QUID PRO QUO FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. WHILE I DOUBT THAT THIS CONCEPT NOW

ENJOYS SAME CURRENCY IN ETHIOPIAN CIRCLES AS IT ONCE DID, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS YET DEAD. DESPITE IT, IF W WERE TO TAKE FAVORABLE ACTION ON OUTSTANDING EPMG REQUESTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE ESPECIALLY AMMO REQUEST, IMPACT OF INFORMING ETHIOPIANS OF OUR INTENTION TO CLOSE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE VERY GREAT. INDEED, MANY IN DIRG AND MINISTRIES WILL PROBABLY WELCOME IT AS REMOVING A SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT. IF, ON OTHER HAND, WE DO NOT TAKE FAVORABLE ACTION ON AMMO REQUEST, AND THEN INFORM THEM OF KAGNEW DECISION (OR INFORM THEM AND THEN TURN DOWN AMMO REQUEST), WE CAN EXPECT HEAR ABOUT QUID PRO QUO AGAIN IN SOME FORM, AND THERE WILL THEN BE VERY LITTLE WE CAN SAY THAT WILL PERSUADE THEM THAT KAGNEW DECISION WAS FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN POLICY REASONS.

4. THUS, IF AMMO DECISION IS FAVORABLE, I BELIEVE WE COULD PROBABLY INFORM THEM OF KAGNEW SHORTLY THEREAFTER WITHOUT CAUSING TOO MUCH OF FUSS. IF AMMO DECISION IS NOT FAVORABLE, I WOULD FAVOR WAITING AT LEAST 4-6 WEEKS FROM DECISION BEFORE ANNOUNCING KAGNEW. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF MAAG, AMMO, AND KAGNEW, WILL HAVE FURNISHED ETHIOPIANS WITH CLEAR SIGNAL OF OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE INTENTIONS, BUT DEFERRAL OF COMMUNICATING KAGNEW DECISION WOULD AT LEAST SPACE OUT BAD NEWS AND GIVE ETHIOPIANS A LITTLE TIME TO DIGEST IT. ETHIOPIANS ARE NOT LIKELY INTERPOSE ANY OBJECTION TO CLOSING KAGNEW EVEN IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT THEY ALSO MAY NOT BE VERY COOPERATIVE.

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5. REFTTEL SEEMS TO SUGGEST THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE UNDER IMPRESSION DEPARTURE FROM KAGNEW CAN BE NEAT AND QUICK ONCE EPMG INFORMED. ON CONTRARY, IT IS LIKELY TO REQUIRE DELIBERATE AND CAREFUL HANDLING. CONSUL GENERAL SLUTZ HAS SENT ME HIS VIEWS (ASMARA 261) WITH WHICH I AGREE, EXCEPT POSSIBLY FOR HIS IMPLICATION THAT CLOSING OF KAGNEW REQUIRES SOME REFERENCE TO 1953 AGREEMENT, A MATTER THAT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME AND ON WHICH I WOULD APPRECIATE SOME ADVICE FROM DEPT. I WOULD BE CONCERNED, FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF IMPACT ON STATUS OF OTHER MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN ADDIS WHICH ALSO COVERED BY SAME 1953 AGREEMENT SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY TO REFER TO AGREEMENT IN DEALING WITH KAGNEW. I AM THEREFORE RETRANSMITTING HIS MESSAGE TO DEPT. IT DESERVES CAREFUL THOUGHT. IN ADDITION, I PRESUME WE SHOULD PROVIDE EPMG WITH FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF OUR INTENTION. TO THIS END, I WILL EVENTUALLY WELCOME TEXT THAT CAN BE TRANSMITTED BY DIP NOTE. I ALSO

RECOMMEND PREPARATION OF PRESS GUIDANCE, SINCE OUR INTENTION T CLOSE WILL NOT LONG REMAIN CLASSIFIED.

6. FOREGOING RE MAAG HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH GEN. FYE AND WE BOTH WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHEN DEPT'S DECISION IS COMMUNICATED TO USCINCEUR.  
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## Message Attributes

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